

Submitter: Peter Bergel
On Behalf Of: Stop Nuclear Work Group and Oregon PeaceWorks
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4046

Testimony of Peter Bergel on HB 4046

Chair Lively and Members of the Committee,

My name is Peter Bergel, I live in Salem and I am here representing the Stop Nuclear Work Group and Oregon PeaceWorks. In 1980 I was the co-author and campaign manager of Ballot Measure 7, which put the sensible restrictions on nuclear power that it has – 46 years later – still not been able to meet.

Here are three reasons why this committee should not advance this legislation.

1. The Oregon Department of Energy just completed an energy study in which they considered nuclear power, found it too expensive to be included in Oregon's energy strategy and said they would revisit this conclusion in four years. Thus, a study like this is not needed and the money could be better used elsewhere.
2. ODOE should absolutely not be allowed to take money from outside sources for such a study. It is likely that the nuclear and data center industries would dip into their deep pockets to contribute. Indeed, I suspect that is the reason for this bill. ODOE may - or may not - claim that such outside funding would not prejudice the study's results, but either way it would certainly appear highly unethical and reduce confidence in any conclusions such a study would adduce.
3. The bill calls for ODOE to consult with Oregon State University. OSU is widely known to be strongly pro-nuclear, but no provision is made in the bill to seek input from the opposite viewpoint. Again, this gives the strong impression of placing a thumb on the scale and attempting to influence the results of the study.

For these reasons, we urge a NO vote on HB 4046, as Washington legislators recently did in that state on similar legislation.